

History Highlights

The Occoneechee Indians once lived in the Kerr Lake area until they were dispersed by Nathaniel Bacon in 1676. But, up to that date, the Roanoke River was the main transportation and supply route for both American Indians and early settlers. Constant, regular flooding of the river provided rich and productive farmland that sustained the area for generations. The development of cities and homes along the river and the increased demand for flood control and electricity led to the construction of the John H. Kerr Reservoir, named after the North Carolina congressman instrumental in the reservoir's development. Construction of this reservoir that straddles Virginia and North Carolina began in 1946 and was completed in 1952.

The Kerr Reservoir Commission was then created to govern the North Carolina parks bordering the lake. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation eventually took control of the seven recreation areas of the reservoir in 1975. In addition to water resource management, the reservoir provides fish and wildlife conservation, forest management and recreation.

Camping

Family Camping: Kerr Lake offers hundreds of wooded tent and trailer campsites, many are on the water's edge. Both electric hookup and non-electrical sites are offered. Many of the electrical sties have hookups for water directly on the site, but some require up to 100 feet of hose to reach the water hookup.

All sites have a picnic table, fire pit/ring or grill and tent pad. Playgrounds, public telephones, hot showers, restrooms and dump stations are nearby. Campsites are available on a first-come basis for a fee. Reservations may be made for a stay of a week or longer at least one week in advance. The maximum stay in the park is two weeks.

Bullocksville offers 63 tent/trailer campsites, 30 with electric hookups. A softball field is nearby. County Line offers 71 campsites, 36 with electric hookups. Henderson Point has 74 campsites, 45 with electric hookups. All three campgrounds are open April through the end of September.



Fishing

One of the best fishing lakes in the eastern United States, Kerr Lake features a plentiful supply of striped bass, largemouth bass, white perch and crappie.

Fish from a boat or fish from the piers at Bullocksville and Henderson Point. The pier at Henderson Point is open 24 hours per day.



Hibernia has 147 campsites, 47 sites have electric hookups. Kimball Point has 79 campsites, 49 sites with electric hookups. Both areas are open April through the end of October.

Nutbush and JC Cooper Campground at Satterwhite Point are both open year round. Nutbush has 106 campsites, 65 with RV hookups. JC Cooper Campground has 112 sites, 62 with electric hookups for RVs.

Reservations for campsites are accepted beginning the first working day in January for a minimum of seven nights and no longer than 14 nights. The reservation must be made at least one week in advance and advance payment must cover the full amount of the reservation. Reservations can be made in person at the park office or can be mailed to the park office with payment. Cancellation of the reservation must be in writing and a cancellation fee equal to a one-night campsite fee will be deducted from the refund.

Group Camping: Hibernia, Henderson Point and Satterwhite Point have areas set aside for camping clubs and groups. Group campsites at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area provide privacy, drinking water and restrooms. Contact the park office to reserve a campsite. All three group sites are open by April 1. Hibernia and Satterwhite Point group sites are open through the end of October. Henderson Point group area closes at the end of September. Group campsites are by reservation only. Reservations may be made for one night but may not exceed 14 nights. These reservations must be made one week in advance and include full payment for the site.

A full service, online and call center-based reservations system is being developed and will be unveiled summer 2009. Check the Web site for more details www.ncparks.gov.

Flora & Fauna

Much of the land that makes up Kerr Lake State Recreation Area is covered by forests in various stages of regrowth that follow the farming and timbering practices of the past. The forests found at Kerr Lake are typical of those found elsewhere in the Piedmont of North Carolina. Pine stands are dominated by loblolly pines. In hardwood forest areas, various oak and hickory species, tulip poplars, sweetgums, maples, American beech and dogwoods are commonly found. In drainage areas and along the shoreline, willows, river birch and alder are found. Also present are buttonbush and rose mallow.

Many types of mammals live around Kerr Lake. Mammals such as white-tailed deer, raccoons, Virginia opossums, gray foxes, red foxes, cottontail rabbits and gray squirrels are common in the woods and along the shore. Beavers, muskrats and a few river otters make their homes at Kerr Lake as well. Many of these creatures are secretive and not often seen by park visitors.

There are several species of amphibians and reptiles at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area. Frogs, toads, turtles, lizards and snakes are all found here. Most snakes found at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area are harmless. Generally, snakes found in the water are non-venomous water snakes. There is one species, the copperhead, which is venomous and lives on park land.

Bird species are representative species typical of the Carolina Piedmont. Songbirds include indigo buntings, red-eyed vireos, northern cardinals, prairie warblers, eastern kingbirds and Carolina chickadees. Many birds of prey also reside here. Red-tailed hawks, red-shoulder hawks, ospreys and eagles are all seen soaring overhead. Barred owls, great-horned owls and screech owls are often heard under the cover of darkness.

Wading birds such as great blue herons and egrets can be found along the shoreline as they hunt for fish in the shallows. Other "fishermen" found above and on the lake include the belted kingfisher and double crested cormorant. In the winter, the common loon and pied billed grebe can also be observed at the lake. Additionally, Canada geese and mallard ducks are frequently seen on the water and along the shore.

Community Building

Reserve a community building for your next family reunion or organization meeting. Bullocksville, Henderson Point and Satterwhite Point each have a community building located on the lakeshore. Each building has a meeting room, kitchen facilities and restrooms.

Reservations for community buildings and picnic shelters will be accepted beginning the first working day in January. The reservation must be made at least one week in advance and can be made in person or by mail.

The park office must receive a completed contract and full payment. Cancellation of reservations must be made in writing.

Access

Persons with disabilities will find access to a wide range of recreational facilities at Kerr Lake. All paved parking lots have special spaces available and the restrooms and shower houses are also accessible. The Bullocksville and Henderson Point areas offer accessible fishing piers. Accessible camping sites are available at all camping areas. Accessible picnic areas are available at Bullocksville and Satterwhite Point, and our community buildings are barrier free. Rangers can guide you to facilities best suited to your needs.

Swimming

Satterwhite Point has a defined swimming area with accessible change rooms and restrooms. Personal flotation devices are loaned at Satterwhite Point, Hibernia, Kimball Point and Henderson Point recreation areas.

Boating

Enjoy boating throughout the year at Kerr Lake. Each recreation area has one or more concrete boat-launching ramps. County Line, Henderson Point, Hibernia and Nutbush recreation areas provide 24-hour access to the water.

Two commercial marinas, open year round, offer mooring, slips, service and supplies.

Distances and shorelines may be deceiving to the navigator who is unfamiliar with the lake. The Uniform Waterway Marker System has been installed for your safety. Obey all buoys and markers.

Sailing: Prevailing winds offer ideal conditions for sailing enthusiasts. County Line, Henderson Point and Kimball Point have expansive bodies of water particularly well-suited for sailing. Sudden wind changes and large waves are not unusual, so cautious seamanship is advised.



Picnicking

Choose from more than 300 picnic tables and 11 shelters with access to the lakeshore and boat ramps. Shelters vary in size and seat up to 50 people. The shelters have running water and are free of charge unless reservations are requested. Reservations for picnic shelters will be accepted beginning the first working day in January. The reservation must be made at least 24 hours in advance and can be made in person or by mail. Cancellation of reservations must be made in writing.

Nature's Classroom

Rangers hold regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs about Kerr Lake State Recreation Area. Contact the park office to arrange a special exploration of Kerr Lake State Recreation Area for your group or class.

Educational materials about Kerr Lake State Recreation Area have been developed for grades 3-5 and are correlated to North Carolina's competency-based curriculum in science, social studies, mathematics and English/language arts. The Kerr Lake program focuses on environmental stewardship and recycling processes. Accompanying the program is a teacher's booklet and workshop, free of charge to educators.

The visitor center at Satterwhite Point features an exhibit hall. Visitors can learn about the creation of Kerr Lake, reservoir habitats, the Roanoke River Basin, environmental stewardship and recreation opportunities.

Hiking

Explore Kerr Lake State Recreation Area by foot. Bullocksville, Satterwhite Point and Hibernia areas have short nature paths offering a closer look at the aquatic environment.

Rules & Regulations

Make your visit safe and rewarding; obey the following rules and regulations.

- ☐ The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- ☐ The removal of any plant, animal, rock or mineral is prohibited.
- ☐ Hunting, trapping and possession of firearms or fireworks are prohibited.
- ☐ A current North Carolina or Virginia fishing license is required.
- ☐ Fishing is permitted. Regulations of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission apply.
- ☐ Help maintain a clean environment by throwing trash in proper receptacles. State law requires aluminum cans to be placed in recycling containers.
- ☐ Cooking fires are permitted only in designated areas.
- ☐ North Carolina motor vehicle and traffic laws apply in the park. All unlicensed vehicles and drivers are prohibited.
- ☐ Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings.
- ☐ Camp in designated areas by permit only.
- ☐ When camping on sites boardered with landscaping timbers, please place equipment inside the timbers.
- ☐ Observe the posted campground quiet hours, which begin at 10 p.m.
- ☐ All North Carolina boating and fishing regulations are enforced.

For Your Safety

To prevent accidents, please remember these safety tips.

- ☐ Do not feed or approach wildlife. North Carolina is experiencing a rise in rabies cases. Report sick or aggressive animals to rangers.
- ☐ Be sure your boat is properly registered and equipped with safety devices.
- ☐ You may be boating in unfamiliar waters. Exercise cautious seamanship.
- ☐ Exercise caution when approaching the shoreline. Water depth varies due to lake fluctuations and terrain.
- ☐ Do not ski in boat-launching or mooring areas.
- ☐ When on or near the water, wear a life vest.
- ☐ Do not swim alone.

Contact park staff for other safety tips or for an explanation of park rules.

Welcome!

Set a course for Kerr Lake State Recreation Area to enjoy sailing, fishing, water skiing and camping.

This 50,000-acre man-made lake is a haven for water sports enthusiasts and landlubbers, too. The lake is situated in the northeast corner of the Piedmont region and covers both Virginia and North Carolina. Its headquarters are located north of Henderson at Satterwhite Point.

More than 800 miles of wooded shoreline provide access to a variety of fun-filled activities on the lake. Relax and enjoy water sports at any of the recreation areas operated by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation along this expansive reservoir. These seven recreation areas are Bullocksville, County Line, Henderson Point, Hibernia, Kimball Point, Nutbush Bridge and Satterwhite Point.



Information

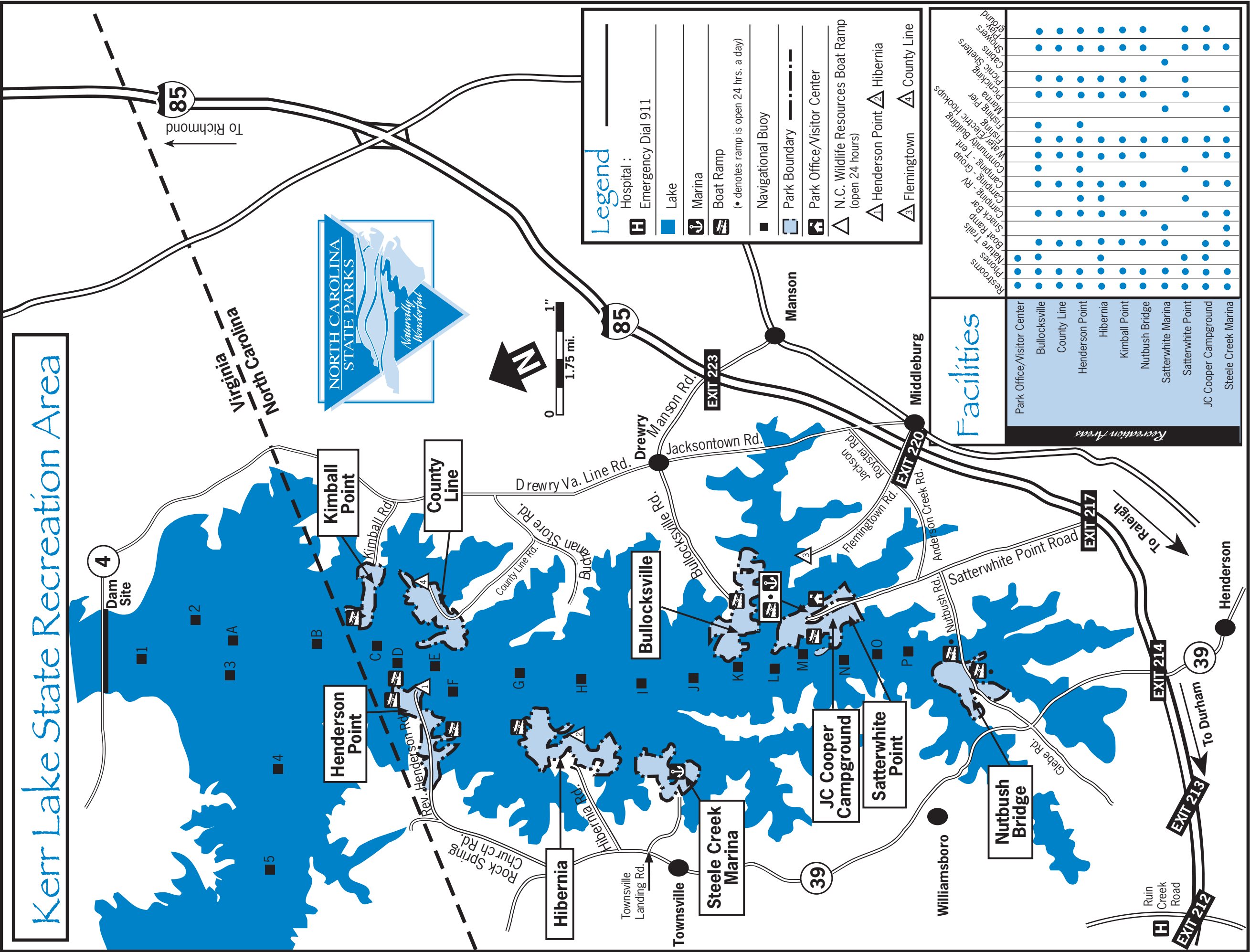
To learn more about Kerr Lake State Recreation Area, contact:

Kerr Lake State Recreation Area
6254 Satterwhite Road
Henderson, NC 27537
252-438-7791
kerr.lake@ncmail.net
www.ncparks.gov

Discover other North Carolina state parks and recreation areas, contact:

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
1615 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615
919-733-4181

Printed with vegetable based inks on 100% recycled paper, produced with wind-generated electricity. This publication is recyclable. When you have finished with it, help save our earth by sharing it with a friend, returning it to the park or placing it in an appropriate recycling bin.



N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Kerr Lake
State
Recreation Area

Kerr Lake
State
Recreation Area



Kerr Lake State Recreation Area is located in Vance and Warren counties, north of Henderson. It can be reached via U.S. 1, N.C. 39 or I-85. On I-85, the exits for the individual recreation areas are marked. Visitors can follow the brown signs to the individual recreation area of their choice.

Park Hours

November-February	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
March, April, September & October	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
May-August	8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day	